

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin,
Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Ph: (512) 853-8800
Date: October 24, 2005



Date _____

1

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

As evidenced by the assignment recorded at Reel/Frame 012128/0182, the subject application is owned by Sun Microsystems, Inc., a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Delaware, and now having its principal place of business at 4150 Network Circle, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representatives, or assignee which will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 25 are pending. Claims 1 – 25 are rejected, and the rejection of these claims is being appealed. A copy of claims 1 – 25 is included in the Claims Appendix attached hereto.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments to the claims have been submitted subsequent to the final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method comprising populating a directory (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 113; FIG. 6, reference numeral 601; page 3, lines 9 – 22; page 10, line 21 – page 12, line 21; page 13, lines 7 – 20) with entries (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 502; page 10, line 28 – page 12, line 21) for each of a plurality of users (see, e.g., FIG. 4, reference numerals 402, 404, 406; page 10, lines 15 – 18) of a multi-user computing environment (see, e.g., FIG. 3, reference numeral 200; page 8, line 1 – page 9, line 19), wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user ID and one or more group names, wherein each of the one or more group names corresponds to a group to which the user ID belongs, and wherein at least one of the entries in the directory comprises a first group name of the one or more group names; determining a first group access control list (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 127; FIG. 6, reference numeral 603; page 3, line 24 – page 4, line 2; page 12, lines 23 – 28; page 13, lines 22 – 29) for the first group name, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory; and, for each data source (see, e.g., FIG. 4, reference numeral 130; page 10, lines 5 – 7) in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name, granting access (see, e.g., FIG. 6, reference numeral 605; page 4, lines 4 – 13; page 14, lines 2 – 10) to the respective data source to the users in the first group access control list.

Independent claim 10 is directed to a system comprising a file system (see, e.g., FIG. 4, reference numeral 125; page 9, line 22 – page 10, line 7) which comprises one or more data sources (see, e.g., FIG. 4, reference numeral 130; page 10, lines 5 – 7) including a first data source; a directory server (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 113; page 10, line 21 – page 12, line 21) which is configured to store a plurality of entries (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 502; FIG. 6, reference numeral 601; page 3, lines 9 – 22; page 10, line 21 – page 12, line 21; page 13, lines 7 – 20) in a directory for a plurality of users (see, e.g., FIG. 4, reference numerals 402, 404, 406; page 10, lines 15 – 18), wherein each entry comprises a user ID and one or more group names which denote

groups to which the user ID belongs, wherein at least one of the entries comprises a first group name of the one or more group names; and a first group access control list (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 127; page 12, lines 23 – 28) which is generated from the entries (see, e.g., FIG. 6, reference numeral 603; page 3, line 24 – page 4, line 2; page 13, lines 22 – 29), wherein the first group access control list is stored in the file system outside of the directory server, wherein the first group access control list comprises the at least one user IDs belonging to the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is usable to permit access (see, e.g., FIG. 6, reference numeral 605; page 4, lines 4 – 13; page 14, lines 2 – 10) to the first data source to user IDs belonging to the first group name.

Independent claim 17 is directed to a carrier medium comprising program instructions (see, e.g., FIG. 1, reference numeral 110; page 6, lines 8 – 10 and 18 – 21) which are computer-executable (see, e.g., FIG. 1, reference numeral 102; FIG. 2, reference numeral 122; page 6, lines 8 – 10 and 18 – 21) to implement populating a directory (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 113; FIG. 6, reference numeral 601; page 3, lines 9 – 22; page 10, line 21 – page 12, line 21; page 13, lines 7 – 20) with entries (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 502; page 10, line 28 – page 12, line 21) for each of a plurality of users (see, e.g., FIG. 4, reference numerals 402, 404, 406; page 10, lines 15 – 18) of a multi-user computing environment (see, e.g., FIG. 3, reference numeral 200; page 8, line 1 – page 9, line 19), wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user ID and one or more group names, wherein each of the one or more group names corresponds to a group to which the user ID belongs, and wherein at least one of the entries in the directory comprises a first group name of the one or more group names; determining a first group access control list (see, e.g., FIG. 5, reference numeral 127; FIG. 6, reference numeral 603; page 3, line 24 – page 4, line 2; page 12, lines 23 – 28; page 13, lines 22 – 29) for the first group name, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory; and, for each data source (see, e.g., FIG. 4, reference numeral 130; page 10, lines 5 – 7) in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name, granting access (see, e.g.,

FIG. 6, reference numeral 605; page 4, lines 4 – 13; page 14, lines 2 – 10) to the respective data source to the users in the first group access control list.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1. Claims 1 – 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shandony (U.S. Patent No. 6,675,261) in view of Mangat, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,799, hereinafter “Mangat”).

VII. ARGUMENT

First Ground of Rejection:

Claims 1 – 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shandony (U.S. Patent No. 6,675,261) in view of Mangat, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,799, hereinafter “Mangat”). Appellants traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 11, 13 – 18, and 20 – 25:

Appellants respectfully submit that Shandony and Mangat do not teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, a method comprising “determining a first group access control list for the first group name, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory” as recited in Appellants’ claim 1.

Instead, Mangat discloses a method and apparatus for maintaining, updating, finding, and re-making links between documents and consumers of those documents. At

the specific locations referred to in the Final Office Action (Figure 5; col. 2, lines 14-28; and col. 16, lines 40-52), Mangat discloses a data structure called a Docloc object which is usable for storing document information outside a directory services system. As shown in Figure 6, a Docloc object stores the title, language, version, description, doc file name, docloc table path, doc publication style, doc file types, doc security, fall back docloc object d.n., and object class for a document.

However, Mangat does not teach or suggest a group access control list stored outside of the directory. Although Mangat discloses (e.g., in Figures 2 – 5) structures that may be usable for access control, such as a membership list (124), association lists (118, 136, 202), access rights (116, 122, 134), and an access control list (202), these structures are clearly stored within Mangat's directory services server (60) (see, e.g., Figure 2). Appellants therefore submit that Mangat does not teach or suggest “wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory” as recited in Appellants’ claim 1.

Shandony also fails to teach or suggest “wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory” as recited in Appellants’ claim 1. At the specific locations referred to in the Final Office Action (col. 7, line 64 to col. 8, line 29), Shandony discloses a group manager (44) which permits the modification of access privileges for groups. In Figure 1, the group manager is depicted as being part of an identity server (40) which is external to a directory server (36). However, Shandony does not teach or suggest that any data structure modified by the group manager is stored outside of the directory. To the contrary, Shandony’s identity server essentially provides a user interface for modification of data stored in the directory server. Therefore, there is nothing in Shandony to teach or suggest that a group access control list is stored outside of a directory.

In order to establish a prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 U.S.P.Q. 580 (C.C.P.A. 1974), MPEP 2143.03. Obviousness cannot be established by

combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching or suggestion or incentive to do so. *In re Bond*, 910 F. 2d 81, 834, 15 USPQ2d 1566, 1568 (Fed. Cir. 1990). The Final Office Action asserts that the motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine “Shandony’s request data with Mangat’s entries outside of the directory” is “to search for association lists among other attributes and to provide a query data structure to be resolved against any data structure.” As discussed above, neither Shandony nor Mangat teaches or suggests a group access control list stored outside of a directory. Therefore, Appellants can find no basis in the cited art for the motivation asserted in the Final Office Action. The art cited by the Final Office Action does not, either singly or in combination, teach or suggest all limitations of the currently pending claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 4 – 9 are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited references for at least the reasons given above.

Claims 10 and 17 recite features similar to those of claim 1 and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over Shandony and Mangat for at least the reasons given above. Dependent claims 11, 13 – 16, 18, and 20 – 25 are also believed to patentably distinguish over the art cited by the Final Office Action for similar reasons.

Claims 3, 12, and 19:

Claim 3 depends on claim 1 and is therefore also believed to patentably distinguish over the art cited by the Final Office Action for the reasons given above. In addition, claim 3 recites a limitation “for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data source to the one or more users whose directory entries comprise the first hostname and who are seeking access from the host having the first hostname.” None of the art cited by the Final Office Action, either singly or in combination, teaches or suggests such a limitation. Although Shandony discloses a policy URL (Uniform Resource Locator) obtained from a directory entry (see, e.g., Figure 69 and col. 70, line 60 to col. 71, line 47), and although a URL may include a

hostname, Shandony does not teach or suggest granting access to the data source to the one or more users whose directory entries comprise the first hostname and who are seeking access from the host having the first hostname. Appellants therefore respectfully submit that claim 3 patentably distinguishes over the cited art.

Claims 12 and 19 recite features similar to those of claim 3 and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over Shandony and Mangat for at least the reasons given above.

VIII. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 – 25 was erroneous, and reversal of the decision is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the appeal brief fee of \$500.00 and any other fees that may be due to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-82200/BNK. This Appeal Brief is submitted with a return receipt postcard.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Noël Kivlin
Reg. No. 33,929
ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert and Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: October 24, 2005



IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX

The claims on appeal are as follows.

1. A method comprising:
populating a directory with entries for each of a plurality of users of a multi-user computing environment, wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user ID and one or more group names, wherein each of the one or more group names corresponds to a group to which the user ID belongs, and wherein at least one of the entries in the directory comprises a first group name of the one or more group names;
determining a first group access control list for the first group name, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory;
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name, granting access to the respective data source to the users in the first group access control list.
2. The method of claim 1,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password; and
wherein the method further comprises authenticating each user ID using the associated user password.
3. The method of claim 1,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of hostnames;
wherein the directory comprises a first hostname; and
wherein the method further comprises:
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data source to the one or more users whose directory entries comprise

the first hostname and who are seeking access from the host having the first hostname.

4. The method of claim 1,
wherein the data source comprises a file or a directory in a file system coupled to the multi-user computing environment.
5. The method of claim 1,
wherein the access comprises read access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to read the data source.
6. The method of claim 1,
wherein the access comprises write access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to write to the data source.
7. The method of claim 1,
wherein the access comprises execute access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to execute the data source.
8. The method of claim 1,
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name and owner but denies access to others, denying access to the data source to users who are not in the first group access control list and who are not the owner of the data source.

9. The method of claim 1,
wherein the multi-user computing environment comprises a UNIX-based operating system.
10. A system comprising:
a file system which comprises one or more data sources including a first data source;
a directory server which is configured to store a plurality of entries in a directory for a plurality of users, wherein each entry comprises a user ID and one or more group names which denote groups to which the user ID belongs, wherein at least one of the entries comprises a first group name of the one or more group names; and
a first group access control list which is generated from the entries, wherein the first group access control list is stored in the file system outside of the directory server, wherein the first group access control list comprises the at least one user IDs belonging to the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is usable to permit access to the first data source to user IDs belonging to the first group name.
11. The system of claim 10,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password, wherein the user password is usable to authenticate the corresponding user ID for access to the one or more data sources.
12. The system of claim 10, further comprising:
a host computer system coupled to the file system;
wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of host names such that the directory server comprises a first host name corresponding to the host computer system, and wherein access is granted to the first data sources to users seeking access from the host computer system.

13. The system of claim 10,
wherein the access to the first data source comprises read access.
14. The system of claim 10,
wherein the access to the first data source comprises write access.
15. The system of claim 10,
wherein the access to the first data source comprises execute access.
16. The system of claim 10, further comprising:
an operating system which is operable to restrict user access to the data sources in
the file system.
17. A carrier medium comprising program instructions which are computer-executable to implement:
populating a directory with entries for each of a plurality of users of a multi-user
computing environment, wherein each entry in the directory comprises a
user ID and one or more group names, wherein each of the one or more
group names corresponds to a group to which the user ID belongs, and
wherein at least one of the entries in the directory comprises a first group
name of the one or more group names;
determining a first group access control list for the first group name, wherein the
first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose
entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access
control list is stored outside of the directory;
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits
access by the first group name, granting access to the respective data
source to the users in the first group access control list.
18. The carrier medium of claim 17,

wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password; and
wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement
authenticating each user ID using the associated user password.

19. The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of
hostnames;
wherein the directory comprises a first hostname; and
wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement :
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which
permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data
source to the one or more users whose entries comprise the first
hostname and who are seeking access from the host having the
first hostname.
20. The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein the data source comprises a file or a directory in a file system coupled to
the multi-user computing environment.
21. The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein the access comprises read access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access
control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control
list to read the data source.
22. The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein the access comprises write access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access
control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control
list to write to the data source.

23. The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein the access comprises execute access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to execute the data source.
24. The carrier medium of claim 17, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name and owner but denies access to others, denying access to the data source to users who are not in the first group access control list and who are not the owner of the data source.
25. The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein the multi-user computing environment comprises a UNIX-based operating system.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence submitted under 37 CFR §§ 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or otherwise entered by the Examiner is relied upon in this appeal.

XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no related proceedings known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representatives, or assignee which will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.